



Grades 3 - 5

Fireflies

THE KID'S SAFETY SOURCE

Volume 8, Number 3

Firefighter Math

Firefighters use math in many different ways. See if you can do the firefighter math problems.

When Seattle Fire Captain Vantrojen arrives on the ladder truck at a fire he estimates how long of a ladder he will need to reach the fire. He must pick the right ladder on his first try. There is no time for mistakes.

★ If Captain Vantrojen needed to choose a ladder to reach your window which of the following would he choose? Circle your answer.

- A. No ladder, you are on the bottom floor
- B. A 24 foot ladder. It will reach two stories
- C. A 35 foot ladder. It will reach three stories
- D. The aerial ladder. Your window is higher than three stories



Firefighters use math when they help people who are hurt or sick. They take their pulse. They use their index and middle finger to apply pressure to one of the patient's arteries. An artery carries blood through your body. The firefighters count how many "pulses" there are in 15 seconds. They multiply the number of pulses by 4. This tells the firefighters how many times the heart beats in one minute.

★ If the firefighter counts 21 "pulses" in 15 seconds what is the patient's pulse for one minute? Answer: _____

Firefighters use math to figure out how much water to spray on a fire.

★ The fire engine's water tank holds 500 gallons of water. If the firefighter sprays water through the fire hose at 100 gallons per minute, how long will it take to empty the water tank?

Answer: _____

Feature Firefighter

Meet Captain Val Hecker



Captain Hecker works with the Seattle Fire Department. She has worked there for 20 years. She works very hard. She has **studied and learned** as much about being a good firefighter as she can. This has helped her get promoted. Promoted means being given more responsibility. Captain Hecker is a Recruiting Captain. Her job is to find people who want to be firefighters in Seattle. Do you want to be a firefighter when you grow up?

Captain Hecker wanted to be a **firefighter** for many reasons. She wanted to use her strength. She exercises and is strong. She wanted to help others. Firefighters help people who are sick or hurt. Captain Hecker wanted to use her **college education**. She is smart. Working at the fire department lets Captain Hecker use all her skills.

What does a Recruiting Captain do? A Recruiting Captain finds people who might want to be firefighters. Captain Hecker shows them what being a firefighter is all about. She shows them how to apply for the job in Seattle. She does this in many ways. She talks to groups of students about the job of a firefighter. She uses the **Internet** to share information about being a firefighter. She advertises about the job in the **newspaper**. She goes to community events to meet people. She organizes fun events. One of these fun events is a women's **basketball team**. The team is all women firefighters. They play basketball before Seattle Storm games. She is also in charge of volunteers who help her do all of these things.



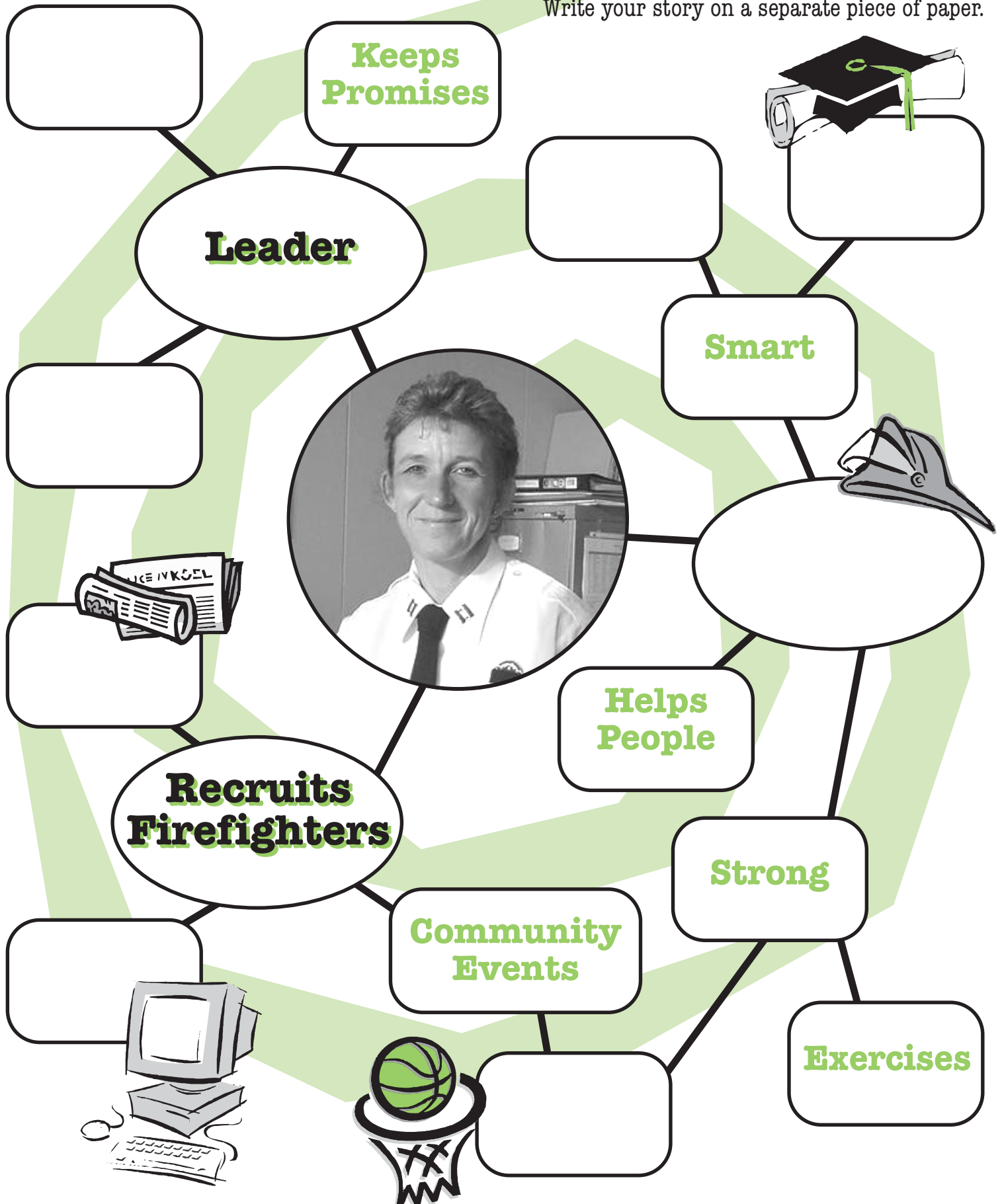
How does Captain Hecker do her job so well? She says, "I must work well with other people. I must be a good leader. I must be **truthful** and **fair**. I must do what I say I will do." You can count on Captain Hecker!

Building a Character Web

Complete the Character Web using information from the Feature Firefighter article on Page 2.

Use the information to write your own story about Captain Hecker's job.

Write your story on a separate piece of paper.



Make, and practice, a Fire Escape Plan for your family

The Secret Decoder grid has two columns of letters. The first column is all the letters of the alphabet. The second column (in green) is the secret key. Use the Secret Decoder to unscramble the words and help you plan your escape. Then use the decoded story to label each photo.

A	H
B	U
C	R
D	P
E	T
F	I
G	V
H	O
I	C
J	D
K	M
L	Z
M	A
N	S
O	K
P	G
Q	W
R	E
S	J
T	N
U	L
V	F
W	Y
X	X
Y	B
Z	Q

Does your home have an _____ in case of a fire? It is important to be prepared so you can act _____ if there is ever a fire at your home. Here are some important things to know about making your escape plan.

Be sure that you plan _____ of your home and your room. A door should be your first _____ and a _____ or other door could be your second.

_____ should be tested every month. How many smoke alarms does your home have? There should be one near the _____ area and another near the _____ area. There might be more. That is a good thing.

If your smoke alarm sounds at night, get down and _____. Be sure not to stand up and breathe _____. Use your escape plan and go to your family _____. Everyone should know where to go. A mailbox or a tree is a good meeting place. Count and make sure everyone is out safely.

Go to a _____ house and call 9-1-1. You will need to know your _____ so the firefighters can find your house.



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____
